

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 04025 311625Z

51

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USSS-00 NSC-10 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 IO-03 AF-04 NEA-05 SPC-01 L-02 PRS-01 DRC-01

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P R 311556Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7316

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4025

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SC, NO, ME

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN INTEREST IN UNEF PARTICIPATION

REF: A. USUN 4311; B. OSLO 3959; C. OSLO 3889

1. WE AGREE WITH USUN'S OBSERVATION THAT NORWEGIAN PERM REP ALGARD IS BEING EXCITABLE IN HIS SUGGESTION THAT NORWAY'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO WOULD BE THREATENED IF UN FAILED TO REQUEST NORWEGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO STANDBY FORCE FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE-KEEPING EFFORT. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, DETECTED CONCERN IN KIND IF NOT DEGREE TO THAT VOICED BY ALGARD WHEN DEFENSE MINISTER FOSTER-VOLL CONFESSED HIS DISAPPOINTMENT TO MAAG OFFICER THAT NORWAY WAS NOT CALLED UPON TO PARTICIPATE (PARA 2 REF B).

2. FAR LEFT HAS DEMONSTRATED BY ITS REACTION TO NOBEL PEACE PRIZE AWARD THAT IT IS SEEKING ANY ISSUE WITH WHICH TO WEAKEN NORWAY'S TIES WITH THE WEST. SINCE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LARSEN HAS ALREADY CALLED FOR NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON NATO MEMBERSHIP, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF LEFTISTS ARGUED THAT MEMBERSHIP IN
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PAGE 02 OSLO 04025 311625Z

NATO PREVENTED NORWAY FROM BEING INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN UNEF.

3. MANY NORWEGIANS REGARD ACTIVE SUPPORT FOR UN ACTIVITIES A CORNERSTONE OF NORWEGIAN POLICY. ACCORDINGLY, FACT THAT FOSTERVOLL ANNOUNCED IN RADIO INTERVIEW THAT NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK AND FINLAND WERE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE-KEEPING FORCE, IF ASKED (REF A), INEVITABLY HAS RAISED A QUESTION IN MANY NORWEGIAN MINDS WHY THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ASKED.

4. PEOPLE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BUT NOT TO POINT OF MAKING NATO THE SCAPEGOAT, IF NORWAY IS NOT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNEF. HOWEVER, SINCE NATO-MEMBER AS WELL AS NORDIC COUNTRIES (WITH WHICH NORWAY HAS SOMEWHAT COMPETITIVE RELATIONSHIP) ARE CONTRIBUTING FORCES TO UNEF, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO U.S. AND NATO INTERESTS IF NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT WERE ALSO REQUESTED. THE HYPERACTIVE FAR LEFT WOULD ALSO BE DEPRIVED OF ANOTHER ARGUMENT AGAINST NATO MEMBERSHIP.
BYRNE

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